Enter ERPINGHAM*

ERP. My lord, your nobles, jealous of your absence,
Seek through your camp to find you.

K. HEN. Good old knight,
Collect them all together at my tent:
I'll be before thee.

ERP. I shall do't, my lord.
[*Exit.*

K. HEN. O God of battles! steel my soldiers'
hearts!
Possess them not with fear; take from them now
The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers
Pluck their hearts from them[6]!—Not to-day, O
Lord,

this passage, which is expressed with some slight obscurity, seems to be—" He little knows at the expetice of how much royal vigilance, that peace, which brings most advantage to the peasant, is maintained." To *advantage* is a verb elsewhere used by Shakspeare. STEEVENS.

I find, from Mr. Twiss's valuable index, that it occurs in six other instances. Bo SWELL.

6 ,----take from them now
The sense of reckoning, IF the opposed numbers
Pluck their hearts from them !] The first folio reads—of the
opposed numbers. STEEVENS.

The poet might intend, " Take from them the sense of reckoning those opposed numbers: *which* might pluck their courage from them." But the *relative* not being expressed, the sense is very obscure. The slight correction I have given *lest* the opposed numbers —l makes it clear and easy. THEOBALD.

The change is admitted by Dr. Warburton, and rightly. Sir T. Hanmer reads:

«----the opposed numbers
" Which stand before them."

This reading he borrowed from the old quarto, which gives the passage thus:

** Take from them now the sense of reckoning,
" That the opposed multitudes which stand before them
" May not appal their courage.'* JOHNSON.

Theobald's alteration certainly makes a very good sense ; but,
I think, we might read, with less deviation from the present text:

** — f/th* opposed numbers
[6f] Pluck their hearts from them."